

MEMORIAL MEETINGS TO MEN OF PEACE

PM's Tributes to Lansbury and Maxton

IT was a strange and happy coincidence, as Vera Brittain remarked at Caxton Hall last Friday evening, that that day—October 25—should be the occasion of a memorial meeting to two outstanding men who possessed, in common, such qualities of comradeship and who so fervently opposed war.

She was speaking at a memorial meeting to James Maxton, and explained that she, like the Prime Minister, had just come from the unveiling of a window to George Lansbury at Kingsley Hall.

Recalling the last occasion when James Maxton was on the same platform with her protesting against the British blockade of Nazi-occupied Europe, Vera Brittain said:

"As James Maxton's life drew to a close certain developments occurred which I believe are likely, in the perspective of history, to show that the view that he took on war was the right one."

Mr. C. R. Attlee, in paying tribute to James Maxton—"why not call him Jimmy as we all know him?"—said he did wonderful work for Socialism up and down the country and referring to his unique position in the House of Commons, concluded: "I believe that the existence and the full toleration of an opposition is the essence of democracy."

Other speakers recalled many different phases of Jimmy Maxton's life—his tolerance, his will for social change, his concern for the refugees of Europe and in particular, the help he rendered in bringing Basque children to this country.

Before unveiling a stained-glass window, designed by Eugene Yoors, of Antwerp, at Kingsley Hall, Mr. Attlee recalled the many living memorials to George Lansbury still around us in the East End and in many of our parks. "There abides in our memory a deep affection for a most lovable man—a man whose heart beat for the sorrows of humanity, yet who himself was always cheerful." The last remnants of the old poor law system, which George Lansbury did more than any other man to break down, are now being swept away.

Describing George Lansbury's life as "one long, vivid, flaming protest against war," Mr. James Hudson, MP, made reference to the cause of women which this "true son of the East End of London" had always championed. He read messages of appreciation from the Norwegian Labour Party, the Belgian Prime Minister, Rev. Henry Carter and others.

Mr. Laurence Housman paid tribute by linking the memory of this great man with that of James Maxton.

"I think we can be very proud of these two men," he said, "and I only wish that their spirit of love, and their power to make their opponents also love them, could take hold of every single politician, then we should not only set up a great light in England but we should win peace for the whole world."

On the other side of the window children still played in the street, and their cheerful voices also paid fitting tribute to a man who loved and understood them. This same characteristic was recalled by those who also knew James Maxton.

CIVILIZATION AND THE DEATH PENALTY

LAST week's Peace News drew attention to two closely related issues—the Nuremberg Trials and the Death Penalty. Controversy will continue to exercise public opinion as to whether staging the trials of the Nazi prisoners was a wise policy, politically expedient, legally and morally justifiable.

"Why make martyrs of them?" asks Bernard Shaw, who recommended release as the best way to deflate the brief power and glory which had gone to their heads—release in the role of undistinguished petit-bourgeois pensionnaires. He may have been right, for in the event one of them came near making fools of the executioners. If most people think that risk too great, however, there remain as alternatives detention in the interests of Society, with the purpose of reform; or the penalty of death.

That choice has been made; but as the curtain descends on the Nuremberg gallows and the drama fades from man's short-lived memory, the moral validity of the act which these gallows symbolize will more and more challenge the civilized human mind. For the touchstone of civilization is reverence for the individual human personality. Dragged alarmingly backwards by the unbridled brutality of total war, in the slack water of mental exhaustion and apathy, mankind is halting to-day between moral retreat and advance.

Elliot Roosevelt reports that at Teheran Stalin toasted the round 50,000 war-criminals about to be hanged. Churchill, to his credit, protested in the name of the British sense of justice. President Roosevelt, saying he would assume his usual role of mediator, suggested a compromise—to reduce the numbers to, say, 49,500. The story, even if apocryphal, reveals in startling light the uncertain issue of a civilization still in the balance.

The Criminal Justice Bill

During the next few months this subject of the Death Penalty, significant for the whole future of humanity, may come for decision before our own public opinion; and as Great Britain decides, so world opinion may move.

The Labour Party at its Conference in 1934 adopted the recommendation of the Clynes Select Committee to give a five years' trial to abolition. Will

by CORDER CATCHPOOL

this proposal be adopted in the forthcoming Criminal Justice Bill, and civilization begin again to move forward? The subject is noticeably of growing interest as reflected by the attention given to it in the Press. The public mind and imagination has been quickened through the hanging "by the neck until they were dead" of the Nazi criminals. Nuremberg is a turning point—backwards or forwards?

"The world has been rid of dangerous men," said a leading article. "The account of these men with their fellow-men is now settled," wrote the Archbishop of Canterbury in a dignified letter to The Times. But is it settled? Has the world really been rid of these dangerous men? The danger was in their ideas. Our criterion of judgment must therefore be, whether by this final act the world has been rid of their ideas, not just their bodies.

"The issue of capital punishment is no new one," wrote Dorothea Calvert, Chairman of the National Council for the Abolition of the Death Penalty, in The Friend. "The trials of war-criminals are of fundamental importance in the sphere of political ethics. . . . The community should surely set a standard of human and civilized conduct, and not imitate the violence it condemns."

What is new about the Nuremberg Trials is that the gallows were set, not in the recesses of a County Gaol, but for multiple executions in the limelight of the world's stage, and for all the world to applaud, in the sense that justice carried to execution in this way is being held up before the world as the highest level yet reached by civilization. The Times in fact writes that "The chief function of the Court is to establish lasting precedents in international morality"—to underline which, the newspapers of the world detail what the prisoners ate "before they were aroused with coffee for execution," and began from Death Row, as their

cells were dubbed, "the walk to the gallows of the condemned Nazi leaders sentenced to death by the Nations in the name of civilization," as one correspondent cabled, though the italics are not his.

If civilization survive, if Christ's Kingdom come on Earth as it is in Heaven, what will its citizens think of this "lasting precedent in international morality?" "To believe our public men," says Victor Gollancz in "Our Threatened Values," "you would think that pity and mercy were not merely irrelevant, but positively disgraceful. . . . There was some spark of goodness even in Streicher himself. This is why, though in one sense he is lower than the beasts, while we can pity a beast only for its sensations, we can pity him for something more." The Society of Friends might have made that comment on Nuremberg. "There was some spark of goodness even in the worst of them"—it is the central message of the Quakers, and has been spoken by a Jew, about Streicher.

Helping the living

"Now let us get on with the task of helping the living, and putting the broken world to rights," says a leader-writer bravely on the morrow of the executions. But the same morning brings news that British boys of 18 may, after two years of full-time military service, be called up each summer in the four succeeding years for a further period of training with the Territorial Army; and we read almost daily of experiments with new weapons infinitely more deadly than the atom bomb.

Well may Mr. Gollancz say "Hitler is dead and Germany is in ruins, but has the horror passed?" He does not think so. "Those tendencies are still at work, some of them more widespread than ever." And so we are back at the questions. Has the world really been rid of these dangerous men; is their account finally settled with their fellows; can it ever be settled except by a change in ourselves and in our attitude towards them?

Such questions may well be asked; for by the answers we shall know whether Nuremberg has helped to establish more firmly the prestige of punishment by death, or to shake that pagan practice from the forward path of civilization.

Mr. Attlee's blunt words to Russia

BEING situated about as far as it is possible to be from "behind the scenes"—indeed in the back row of the gallery—I am mystified by the reaction towards Mr. Churchill's question to the Government: "Is it or is it not true that there are today more than 200 Soviet divisions on a war-footing in the occupied countries of Europe from the Baltic to Vienna and from Vienna to the Black Sea?"

Mr. Stokes and The Times were at one in describing it as a mischievous question: one that ought not to have been asked in public. But it appeared to my naive mind that Mr. Attlee himself had just given a very broad hint that the magnitude of the Russian forces still mobilised was causing serious alarm. After deploring that the military staffs Committee of the United Nations had not been permitted to function, he said:

"There has been a proposal in the Security Council demanding the return of the numbers of troops—foreign troops—in certain countries. This demand has not been accepted, and I think rightly, because there is no provision in the Charter for such return, and in the form in which it was raised, it savoured of pure propaganda. The danger to the world does not lie in the use of troops for police purposes. . . . What does constitute a danger is the total mobilised forces, and while these forces may not be on other people's territory, they must still be a positive danger to peace."

Surely, Mr. Churchill did no more than press the Government to dot the i's and cross the t's of that grave statement.

Abuse of the veto

POSSIBLY, it will do no good, but I cannot see that it does harm.

Observer's Commentary

It is no use pretending. The danger to the world's peace comes, at the present moment, from Russia. And Mr. Attlee's speech, however diplomatic in terms, was an extremely serious indictment of Russia: in particular his charge that Russia had deliberately and consistently abused the Veto.

"At San Francisco we agreed to the creation of the Veto, but I am quite certain that we all regarded this as something to be used only in the last resort, in extreme cases, where the five Great Powers might be involved in conflict. We never conceived it as a device to be used constantly whenever a particular Power was not in full agreement with the others, yet that is just what has happened recently. The Veto was used for every trifling thing and that is reducing to a nullity the usefulness of the Security Council. What is more, it is leading to disrespect, whereas the Security Council was created to create confidence. . . . Nothing will be so disastrous to the peace of the world as to allow the respect, dignity and power of the Security Council to be brought to naught."

The substance of that is familiar enough; but it is well to have it said plainly and with the authority of the British Prime Minister. Those who plead for "agreement" and "understanding" with Russia too often forget that Russian behaviour on the Security Council is the test whether Russia herself desires these things. The evidence is that she does not.

The only "Democracy"

MR. ATTLEE, in his modest and pedestrian way, touched the spot when he said:

"If the Security Council is to be worked, it must be worked with a belief in the democratic method of arriving at results. There must be good will. . . . We reach here, in the consideration of this question, the central question that faces us today. If we are to achieve a peaceful world, States of diverse character must be prepared to tolerate each other and work together."

That is not a British demand; not a demand that our democratic method shall be adopted because it is ours. It must be adopted because it is the only way to peace. In this sphere, of relations between the Powers, there are not two equally valid conceptions of "democracy." In this sphere the Russian conception of "democracy" leads to war; the British conception alone opens the way to peace.

What Mr. Attlee calls "the democratic method of arriving at results"—by open discussion, based on common resolve to use the Veto only as a last resort, is absolutely necessary. It is the only way to "agreement." There is no other. If Russia refuses to take it, then all pious hopes of "understanding" are futile.

The last assurance

NO doubt, "democracy" is something of a misnomer when applied to the organised relations of great powers who possess the Veto. Obviously, the possession of the Veto makes impossible a system of complete democracy. But it is Utopian to expect that a system of complete democracy can be established between the Powers at the present stage of history. Only an approximation to a democratic system can be expected.

Such an approximation is possible; and it is desperately needed, because it is the only chance of saving the world from illimitable disaster. But

(CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE)

PEACE NEWS

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All letters on other than editorial matters
should be addressed to the Manager

BRIGHTON BRICKBATS

SOME of Mr. Attlee's exhortations to the TUC at Brighton last week command our respect. After regretting the barrier to international communication erected by the Soviet Government, and expressing his hope of a change, the Prime Minister declared:

"In the meantime, wherever it is possible, we must do our utmost to promote understanding. Here is one of the ways in which in the present, as in the past, the great world trade union movement can be a powerful instrument for promoting peace. The discussion with men of other countries of matters of common interest, the giving and receiving of hospitality, the joining in games and competitions, and the visits paid to foreign countries all serve to bring home to us the great truth that in the simple things of life there is far more to unite than to separate the members of the human family."

That was worthy of what is best in Socialist tradition, and we are not surprised to learn that the TUC received Mr. Attlee's address coolly. Only the previous day, more than a third of his hearers had been clamouring for a wholesale expulsion of the Polish emigré army.

A large body of alien soldiery is never popular, in peace-time, with the male inhabitants of the country upon which it is quartered. For the sake of these men themselves, it is desirable that their retention in barrack-conditions should be ended: and voices have not been wanting to point out that, in a country short of fuel, houses and hundreds of other commodities, it is folly to keep skilled miners and workmen unemployed.

Yet the prime reason for the Poles' not having been demobilised has been the opposition of just these Trade Unions. Rather than increase production, at the risk of future unemployment, the Unions have preferred to keep an army in idleness. Now, rather than keep it in idleness any longer, they prefer to sentence it to forced labour in Siberia.

Or do they seriously believe that the Poles have no grounds for the fear which has kept them so long from their families? The greater part of this emigré army was recruited upon Russian soil, to fight the Germans. There is reason to suppose that its members know more about Russia than the members of British Trade Unions. It is possible that Gen. Anders himself, who was staying at the Lubianka Prison, Moscow, at the time of his appointment to the command, has more *inside* knowledge of conditions in Russian-controlled territory than the inmates of Brighton's Dome.

Admittedly, not all the Union representatives were equally indiscriminating. The motion of wholesale repatriation was defeated. It may be resolved, instead, that only those Poles with "Fascist leanings" should be sent back. In other words, only those should be sent back who are quite certainly destined for the concentration camp. That is dubious consolation, especially when we remember what "Fascist leanings" amount to.

In this case they amount to having been recruited—as a minority of the Poles were—upon German soil, to fight the other invaders of their country. It is as correct to call them "Fascist," in fact, as it would be to call the majority "Communist." The Poles are neither the one nor the other. They are Nationalists, pure and simple—fanatical Nationalists in many cases, of whom pacifists might well disapprove: but it scarcely becomes those who applauded their nationalism in 1939, went to war ostensibly in defence of it, and profited by it during the Battle of Britain to start caricaturing it now.

"In this trade union movement" (Mr. Attlee concluded), "we address each other as brothers. This is no meaningless phrase, but a continual reminder of the basic principle of the movement that the cause of one worker is the cause of all."

We devoutly wish it were so. Until the Trade Unions are represented by men who do genuinely exalt human brotherhood—even the restricted "brotherhood of the workers"—above national and sectional interests, there is small chance of a Party so dependent upon them as Labour, pursuing an internationalist policy.

Training for a WORLD CIVIL SERVICE

by Francis P. Thomson

WHAT sort of people are to man the various international posts and commissions now being created? Have we still a place for the old-school-tie type of careerist diplomat, whose approach to international problems is along the lines of military strategy, and whose education is steeped in the glories of his own nation?

As aeroplanes contract the world, and man's creative ability in manufacturing new forces of destruction out-paces his intellectual ability to plan the means to which such forces might be put for the benefit of all mankind, it is imperative, if civilization as we know it is to survive, that those who staff the international executive positions should be of a new and different type. It is essential that they be men and women who, regardless of social and financial status, have been selected and trained by reason of their individual merits as practical peace-makers.

Prohibitive cost

Before the Second World War many boys and girls who went abroad on school parties had their interest in international affairs keenly aroused, but were prevented from joyously taking up a career in this field because of the cost of training. So the good done by these visits was seldom followed up, except perhaps for fur-

ther language studies and vacations. Those who had the courage to work hard in international activities, but no money for adequate training, became itinerant journalists or relief workers; and let it be emphasized that relief work is not tackling the root causes of war and distress, it is only aiding a status quo. Those who get nearest to averting war are those in Government and international executive grades.

To commemorate this war are we to tolerate again the spate of futile stone monuments, and the extraordinary practice whereby towns and villages treated themselves to new swimming-baths, halls, and parks in order to remember their dead and maimed sons? Cannot commemoration be more inspiring than that? To reverence the sacrifice of the dead, should not the living prepare themselves to avert a repetition of war?

A County Fund?

Would it not be possible for every county in the land to organise a fund out of which it could periodically bear the entire cost of training one of its sons or daughters, who, by vocational work and private interests had proved to be a good world citizen? Then, if the means for study became available, he or she should avow the intention of qualifying for an executive position in the international civil service? By such a scheme every corner of Britain would be intimately linked with the affairs of the world,

Letters to the Editor

To understand crime

WHILST pacifists will oppose the death penalty on the grounds that the taking of human life is wrong I feel that Wing-Commander E. R. Millington speaking at the conference at Friends House (PN, Oct. 25) made a most valuable point when he said the death penalty could not usefully be considered in isolation. It is rather surprising to see Miss M. Fry reported at the same meeting as saying that the idea of retribution survives here only in this one penalty.

The pacifist can do a valuable job by combining with his protests against the death penalty an effort to bring about a better understanding of crime and the treatment of offenders. He must show that the act cannot be separated from the doer and stress the need in all cases for full details of the past history and mental make-up of the individual concerned so that an attempt can be made to resolve the problem of impulse and responsibility.

To understand the harmful acts of members of our own community is a big step to the understanding of acts

of members of other communities which seem to threaten us.

ARTHUR T. COLLIS.
Stepney Pacifist Service Unit,
6, 355 The Highway, Stepney, E.1.

Thanks to Mr. Gollancz

AFTER reading Vera Brittain's article suggesting Mr. Victor Gollancz as a Resident Minister of Germany, I would like to express my heartiest appreciation to Mr. Gollancz. He is one of the very few Jews who tries and does, in fact, help this unhappy Germany.

As an Austrian Jewess, I find that there exists amongst my people far too much hatred towards the Germans. Everyone knows how much the Jews have suffered during the Nazi regime. But even after hearing about facts beyond any human realization, including the loss of my father, relatives and friends, I could not possibly hate all those millions of innocent Germans.

Nothing would give me more pleasure than to be able to help just a little towards the recovery of that country. To try and forget the unhappy past, to bring about love and friendship, seems to me to be the spirit of democracy and to be a true democrat, I feel sure, one has to be a pacifist.

To practice pacifism in one's daily life requires so much patience, and after having suffered many disappointments, I often despair. I am chiefly thinking of country people, amongst whom we live, in connection with PoWs. I would like to thank Mr. Gollancz for doing such a wonderful job in the spirit of true democracy.

MARGIT ALCOCK.
Westholme Farm,
North Kelsey, Lincs.

No fiction for Germany

A BRANCH of the Control Commission, Germany, is opening reading rooms for the German public to read British newspapers and magazines in several of the big towns. One such reading room is to be opened shortly in Duisburg and the head of this particular branch of the Control Commission would be very glad of material help in the provision of papers.

It seems possible only to get second hand copies and these would have to be from England. What is wanted is educational stuff—not fiction.

ALBERT E. TOMLINSON.
Public Relations Officer.
I.V.S.P., 34 Broadway,
London, S.W.1.

TOBIT

YOU may not know what Tobit is, or has to do with the Headquarters' Fund. Fortunately one of our correspondents did—and it appears that Tobit is of significance for Treasurers. Our friend encloses £1 to our fund and explains:

It was like this. During the PPU Summer School at Bournemouth a quiz was held: "Where does the Golden Rule come from?" "Tobit," replied our friend promptly, and thereby earned £1 reward for his knowledge, loyally earmarked in advance for the HQ Fund.

Tobit, you should know, is a book in the Apocrypha: a book of short stories in the course of which the writer recommends to his son Tobias the wise counsel of the Golden Rule. Tobias may already be known to your children as the hero of an adventure with an Angel. But now mark especially the advice that follows:—

"Give alms of thy substance," adds Tobit to his boy. "If thou have abundance give alms accordingly. If thou have little be not afraid to give that little. Neither turn thy face from any poor, for thou layest up for thyself a good treasure against the day of necessity."

Hear, hear. Turn it not even from poor persistent Treasurers!

We thank thee friend Tobit for the exhortation and you, too, friend, who has sent us this welcome contribution. Others might like to try the quiz idea, getting the fun from it and we the profit.

MAUD ROWNTREE,
CORDER CATCHPOOL,
Joint Treasurers.

Contributions to HQ Fund since October 18: £5 2s. 0d. Year's total to date: £293 17s. 0d. Donations to the fund should be sent, marked "Headquarters' Fund," to the Treasurers at Dick Sheppard House, Endsleigh St., W.C.1.

and a pool of suitably-minded candidates would always be available for international work.

In the course of the next few years there will be a great intake of people into positions with the United Nations Organisations, the Colonial Service, and the Foreign Office Diplomatic Corps. Are we to continue the laissez-faire attitude whereby "private enterprise" decides who shall form our official contacts—as often as not sending reactionary sons and daughters into the diplomatic service simply because it offers adventure, good living, and the chance to meet the "right sort of people" abroad? Is it not time that the "common man" became a diplomat?

It is hoped that this will provoke a discussion as to how men and women of good will and balanced judgment can be encouraged to enter a career—upon which the final history of mankind may depend—within as small a space of time as five years. Ideas regarding the types of training required will be welcome.

With his other eye...

Nelson will be looking for YOU in Trafalgar Square on Saturday afternoon, November 23rd, when there will be a PPU demonstration in support of the
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SOUTHAMPT House, Ordnanc 3 p.m. Special sider Regional secretaries, trea members invited.

OVER TO BERLIN!

DURING the war, a close observer of international affairs remarked that if the Allies had their way, they would have to become permanently militarised in order to ensure the permanent demilitarisation of Germany.

The result, he said, would be that we should become militarist-authoritarian and the Germans would become pacifist-democratic.

If I remember rightly, it was myself. If so, I claim no credit for it. Anybody can say beforehand what is going to be the result of an ideological war.

IT is quite simple. First, read what the belligerents say about each other. Then remember that an ideological war is an act of voluntary scapegoatism, by which the goat, or victor, takes upon himself the sin or malady of which he accuses the vanquished, leaving the latter successfully purged and himself thoroughly infected.

Use that formula and you can't go wrong.

ANYWAY, that is what has happened. The Germans are completely disarmed and everything possible is being done to make sure that they remain harmless as doves for all eternity or until they are needed as somebody's ally in another war against somebody else's militarism.

At the same time, the Allies are pulling fiercer faces at each other than ever. They are hard at it strengthening their frontiers, annexing buffers, improving old weapons and inventing new ones, and are already boasting that their bombers are faster and their bombs bigger and better, than at the end of the war.

WHAT is even more ominous—they are protesting the innocence of their intentions louder and louder every day. And if I know nations, that means they've got their fingers on a hair-trigger.

The matter does not, however, end at the disarmament of Germany and the re-armament of the Allies.

During the past few months we have seen a rapid development of the compulsory empacifistment, or conchification, of the Germans.

WE have imposed upon them a more democratic code of rulers and a higher standard of personal conduct than we accept for ourselves.

It was laid down at Nuremberg that obedience to a command does not excuse a soldier from committing a war crime.

(Note, for beginners: A war crime is a method of killing civilians which, according to the findings of an international committee composed of representatives of not less than two nations, is not the right way to do it.)

But while the lawyers at Nuremberg were telling us this, Field-Marshal Montgomery was telling us that the army is above politics, and that it is a soldier's duty to obey unquestioningly all orders given him by the State through his superior officers.

And at the same time ex-Capt. the Hon. Douglas Home was serving a term in prison for disobeying commands on the grounds that the war was no longer being fought for the moral purposes for which it was undertaken.

THERE is only one explanation of this apparent contradiction: there are two sets of rules—one for Germans and the other for the rest of us.

A German may disobey his superiors' orders; we may not. A German must put his conscience first; the rest of us must put the State first.

We cannot escape the implications of this: what is good enough for us is not good enough for the henceforth morally superior Germans.

THE purpose of the war is now revealed: it was to reverse the former moral and political roles of the belligerents. The Allies are to be militarist-authoritarian, Germany is to be pacifist-democratic.

In future it is to Germany that the world must look for rating the claims of the individual conscience higher than the demands of the State.

While to us is left the humble role of admiring their moral and political superiority from a distance.

Let us have no jealousy. Let us, as disinterested pacifists, rejoice that somewhere, if not here, is the 100 per cent. pacifist nation. Eureka is the word, not Bother.

IS not the cause of Pacifism greatly advanced, with all the Powers so enamoured of Peace that the only thing they can agree upon is their insistence on preserving a vast pacifist sanctuary in the middle of Europe?

Never has there been such a rapid and extensive mass-production of heart-changes since the year 988 when Prince Vladimir converted the entire Russian nation to Christianity overnight.

It virtually amounts to the compulsory enrolment of about 60 million new German members to the PPU. The least we can do, I think, is to move headquarters from Endsleigh Street to Berlin.

Ask your way to the Dick-sheppardstrasse.

Owlglass

FEATURING P.O.W.s

November 1, 1946, PEACE NEWS—3

WE recently published in PN excerpts from an essay on the joys of hay-making by Horst Kott, a German prisoner of war, which won the prize in an essay competition for former Servicemen in the Pembroke-shire town of Solva.

Another essay by a German PoW, Horst Haubold, was highly commended by the adjudicators.

Following is Horst Haubold's essay entitled:

"ENEMIES!"

It was in the summer days of 1942. Our tank corps rumbled through the blood-red glowing desert of Africa. A big cloud of dust accompanied us. Our aim was Tobruk.

"Ready tonight—shut the gun turrets!" The voice of our commander resounds suddenly and the clatter of the machine-guns and the cannons mingle with the monotonous noise of the motors. Now, it is the time to take the last resistance before Tobruk.

Suddenly we get fire from three sides. The shells knock hard against our armour-plates. Everywhere around me our tanks are flaming up in the matter of seconds.

When I opened my eyes again I saw that my tank was destroyed too. I lay between our burning tanks and before I knew what had happened the feared "Hands up" resounded behind me. Now I gave myself up for lost. But how great was my surprise when my "enemy" gave me water at the very first, as he had seen I was without weapons. After this drink I went with assistance to his unit. And there at first I got a bandage before anyone asked troublesome questions to me. And there again, "Do you want water, or something to eat?"

Another comrade became prisoner by the same troop, and we both were soon the centre of the crowd. We looked at white, yellow and black races and everyone gave a friendly word to us without exception of colour. One man, an Englishman, I have specially in my memory. He had done for me what he was able to do. Anodyne remedies, cigarettes, a new shirt—he brought all these to me. He was like a father to me, and he could be it according to age. I remember only some words (my knowledge of the English language did not then allow me more). I said to him, "Englishmen are gentlemen." He replied, "Oh, no, not all." I was able to escape two days later.

When I became prisoner two years later in Normandy it was not possible to escape. And still two years later, I met friendly and

kindly men here in Solva. I learned to understand what I felt weakly before, the fellowship of all together. I am satisfied that the very idea of fellowship over the whole world will grow among all peoples and bring us the eternal peace.

'My German Brothers'

GRADUALLY, official permission is being granted to allow an increasing number of German prisoners of war to take part in church services and similar functions in different parts of the country.

At a special thanksgiving service last Sunday more than 1,000 German prisoners of war gathered in Durham Cathedral to hear the Dean, Dr. C. A. Alington give his address. Speaking in German he said: "My German brothers, I welcome you warmly in the House of God so that we may unite in worship."

That same morning the service at Warboys (Hunts.) Parish Church was conducted in German and in English when 150 German prisoners of war were in the congregation.

Rev. Nelson Trafford, Rector of Warboys, said that the service was a local effort to remove some of the bitterness of the past years. Standing side by side in the pulpit the rector read an English translation of the pastor's sermon; and the pastor then read the rector's in German.

Pastor Schroeder, a Westphalian Lutheran, who is chaplain at Oldhurst prisoners of war camp at Warboys said "this service is a visible sign of unity in the Lord." After the service the rector shook hands with each German as he filed out.

Music knows no bounds

Thirty German prisoners also took part in a sacred concert—one of several which have been arranged in the Saffron Walden district—in Radwinter Parish Church.

The Vicar, the Rev. M. R. Rolleston, said: "I invited the choir because music has no bounds and knows no wars—and because it is the best means of bringing the people of the world together. I see no reason why a German choir should not be allowed to sing in my church; none of my parishioners have objected."

An organ recital was given by Kurt Hasse, who before the war was choir-master and organist at Christ's Church, Dresden, where he shortly expects to be returning, to join his wife and family.

The prisoners produced their own programme, which included works by Bach, Mozart, Palestrina and Mendelssohn.

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When corresponding with PN about an advertisement, quote its first words, classification, and date.

We reserve the right to hold over advertisements and to limit the frequency of continuing advertisements.

MEETINGS, &c.

DENISON HOUSE, 296 Vauxhall Bridge Rd., Public Meeting, Thurs., Nov. 7, 7.30 p.m. A. M. P. Palmer, MP, Robert S. W. Pollard, etc. Questions and discussion. 1s. Marriage Law Reform Committee.

KINGSWAY HALL, W.C.2, Nov. 8, 1.15 p.m. "The Contribution of Science to World Peace," Prof. J. D. Bernal. Friday lunch-hour meeting. Admission free. National Peace Council.

LANSBURY HOUSE, 41 Camberwell Grove (nr. Camberwell Green), Wed., Nov. 6, 7.30-10 p.m. Peckham C.O.'s Reunion Social. All C.O.s in the district and old contacts invited to social, admission free, with light refreshments. Peckham PPU.

LONDON, W.C.1, 8 Endsleigh Gardens. Discussion lectures every Sun., 7.30 p.m. Nov. 3: "Anarchism and the Social Revolution," R. Rhees, Nov. 10: "The Housing Problem and the Squatters' Movement." London Anarchist Group.

LONDON, W.C.1, 8 Endsleigh Gardens. Series of lectures on "The Crisis in History," every Tuesday, 8 p.m. Nov. 5: "What is the Significance of History?" Irene Harsley. Collection. London Forum.

SOUTHAMPTON, Friends Meeting House, Ordnance Rd., Sat., Nov. 16, 3 p.m. Special Area Meeting to consider Regional organization. All secretaries, treasurers and contact members invited. Southern Area.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

ACCOMMODATION

YOUNG COUPLE require flat, unfurnished, rooms, house; purchase £1,700 approx. Nr. London. Box 564.

C.O. resuming studies in London requires accommodation, district immaterial. Box 568.

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TWO C.O.s and wives. House wanted, at least 6 rooms; freehold. Good rail service essential to city. C. R. Cooley, 36 Holmdale Rd., London, N.W.6.

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EDUCATIONAL

SPEAKING AND WRITING lessons (correspondence, or visit) 5s., classes 1s. 6d. Dorothy Matthews, B.A., 32 Primrose Hill Rd., London, N.W.3. PRIMROSE 5686.

FOR SALE & WANTED

HARDWOOD STRIPS wanted, recommendations welcomed, rewarded if business transacted. Vinall, Bishops Tawton, Barnstaple.

PEACE NEWS office urgently requires a typewriter, standard keyboard. Parties, and price to the Office Manager, Peace News Ltd., 3 Blackstock Rd., London, N.4.

WANTED: Neill "Problem Teacher": Best-Taylor "Living Body": Bailey-Love "Surgery for Nurses": Hodann "History Modern Morals": Sears "Materia Medica": Hobhouse-Brockway "English Prisons Today": Smout-McDowall "Anatomy and Physiology for Students of Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy and Gymnastics." Sam Walsh, 16 Mornington Rd., Bolton, Lancs.

WAR RESISTERS' International wd. welcome gifts of foreign stamps for subsequent sale on behalf of W.R.I. funds. Any such gifts received with gratitude. Pl. send to the War Resisters' International, 11 Abbey Rd., Enfield.

HOUSMAN'S BOOKSHOP. Write for Special Christmas list. Dept. F, 124 Shaftesbury Ave., W.1.

PERRY RACQUET, tightly strung, warped, 13s. £1. Box 539.

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QUAKERISM. Information and Literature respecting the Faith and Practice of the Religious Society of Friends, free on application to the Friends' Home Service Committee, Friends' House, Euston Rd., London.

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CONTACT CLUB. Congenial pen friendships for all. Parties, etc., Sec., P.N. 19 Fry Gdns., Rumney, Cardiff.

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SITUATIONS VACANT

We cannot confirm satisfactory conditions of employment in all posts advertised. Applications in doubt are recommended to consult the Central Board for C.O.s, Endsleigh St., W.C.1, which will often be able to give useful advice.

APPLICATIONS ARE invited for the post of Assistant Editor of Peace News. Experience of make-up essential. Write: Editor, PN, 3 Blackstock Road, N.4.

YOUTH (14-16) required by London Office of Printers and Publishers. Permanency; outstanding prospects. Box 565.

ASSISTANT WARDEN wanted for home for aged women. Extension of scheme. Apply Sec., "Hatherlow," 44 Hartwood Rd., Southport.

YOUTH LEADER for Presbyterian Mission, Cambridge. Apply, stating experience, training and salary required, to the Supt., St. Columba's Mission, York St., Cambridge.

ASSISTANT WANTED in Retail Fruit trade, able to drive. Wages £4 per week. J. C. Baker (Growers) Ltd., 3 Ashley Down Rd., Bristol, 7.

HOUSEKEEPER, SEVEN roomed house, 3 children school age; also daily required. Box 569.

SHEPPARD PRESS, 3 Blackstock Road, N.4, invites MSS of books appealing to a well-informed, discriminating public. Send synopsis in first instance.

SITUATIONS and WORK WANTED

RE-EMPLOYMENT BEFORE new year vital. C.O., 27, two children. 20 years gen. office, accountancy, correspondence, etc. Good refs. Adaptable, consider different career. Welcome suggestions. Ingram, 29 Empress Drive, Chislehurst, Kent.

C.O., 35, returned to printing, seeks commercial and jobbing work. Box 566.

HERDSWOMAN WANTS work. Good feeder and milker. Willing to help in house. Cottage if possible. Margaret Litten, 29a Upper Grosvenor Rd., Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

VEGETARIAN C.O., 22, requires land-work with suitable accommodation. 3 yrs. experience gen. farm work, including horses, tractor. Stedman, 5 Parker Ave., Tilbury, Essex.

C.O., 25, unconditionally exempt, requires position; experienced book-keeping, accounts, auditing and gen. office routine. Other suggestions welcomed; excellent refs. Box 567.

FIRST CLASS duplicating of all descriptions, typewriting, etc. Mabel Eyles, 2 Aberdeen Park, Highbury, N.5. Tel. Canonbury 3862.

SPECIALLY PRINTED posters to advertise your Christmas and New Year meetings. Order early. Write for prices and sizes. Leighton Dingley and Co., 70 Brackley Sq., Woodford Green, Essex.

TYPEWRITERS ARE scarce. Send that typing to Lowes. 1s. 3d. per 1,000 words. Quick service. 4 Percy Garden Cottages, Tynemouth.

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Veto no licence for anarchy

'OBSERVER' CONTINUED

it depends upon goodwill—and goodwill expressed in a quite specific way, that is, by a common agreement to restrict the use of the Veto to the use for which it was originally agreed.

Mr. Churchill defined this use precisely. "It should be reserved as a last assurance, to a great Power that it would not be voted down on an issue about which it was prepared to fight." If that is accepted—as everybody believed it was at San Francisco—then it is possible to work what is essentially the democratic system between the Powers. The Veto then becomes roughly analogous to the indefeasible "rights" which the citizen of Western democracy enjoys: it is not a licence to create anarchy.

Deepened distrust

USED as Russia has used it, the Veto is exactly analogous to the "liberus veto" which reduced Poland to perpetual anarchy in the days before the first partition. It completely nullifies the idea of a parliament of the nations and, as Mr. Attlee justly said, makes it an object of contempt and derision. This is Russia's great crime; and it is a very great crime indeed. It has done more to destroy confidence between the nations than anything else.

Is Russia really prepared to go to war on the series of trivial questions on which she has exercised the Veto? If so, she is the most dangerous Power that has ever emerged in history. If not, she has deliberately used the Veto to prevent the United Nations from doing the work for which the organization was created: ventilating the vexed problems, making them the subject of free discussion, and discovering if possible a consensus and, if not, a compromise.

Either conclusion is alarming. For

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the necessary consequence of either is that the rest of the world must "gang up" against Russia. Every occasion on which the Veto has been palpably abused is a legitimate cause of deepened distrust of Russia. A nation which deliberately refuses to allow the world to advance out of its chaos is a universal menace.

UNO or world anarchy

THAT is what Mr. Attlee meant when he said that "nothing would be so disastrous to the peace of the world as to allow the respect, dignity and power of the Security Council to be brought to naught." It is very tempting—and very dangerous—for perfectionists to regard the nullification of the United Nations with complacency, as a foregone conclusion, which they could and did prophesy. That may be gratifying to their private self-esteem; but it reveals them as irresponsible citizens of the world. For there is nothing, and can be nothing, that stands between us and open world-anarchy, except the United Nations.

We may allow that the organization of the United Nations did no more than codify the existing anarchy between the nations. But it did offer the chance of gradually eliciting an order from that anarchy; and it was on the assumption that Russia was willing to co-operate in that common effort that very grave political sacrifices were made in order to secure her participation. The sacrifices have been quite unavailing. Russia, so far from fulfilling her part of the bargain, has used the sacrifices to extort more, and done nothing whatever to enable the United Nations to function.

Good faith and peace

VERY well: Russia has hoodwinked the statesmen of the West, turned the United Nations, to establish which they made great and dangerous concessions, into a trap for themselves. What of it? That is how great powers behave.

If that were true, there would be ground for nothing but despair. It was because Hitler believed that he could go on hoodwinking the Western nations that eventually they ganged up against him. The result will not be otherwise with Russia, if she persists in hoodwinking the West. Unless there is a real and radical change in Russian policy, war will not be avoided: if only because the great majority of men will come to feel that war is better than a combination of the profound insecurity which Russian policy has already created, and will, if it is not radically altered, soon make quite unbearable.

There is an essential minimum not merely of goodwill, but of good faith between nations, which is necessary if the world's peace is to be kept. It is forthcoming in the rest of the world; it is not forthcoming from Russia. Until it is, every month will carry us so much nearer to catastrophe.

"German self-respect must be restored"

MR. T. C. SKEFFINGTON-LODGE, Labour MP for Bedford, speaking at a National Peace Council meeting in the Kingsway Hall, London, last Friday, said that the future of Germany was the future of Europe. Mr. Bevin's recent speech represented a belated advance on anything previously disclosed as Britain's policy.

What was needed above all was a spirit of forgiveness and healing and the development of those humanitarian principles which were the basis of the Labour Party's emphasis on the brotherhood of all men.

Remote control of Germany was what we and our Allies should aim at, so that self-respect—now very feeble—could be restored among Germans.

Mr. Skeffington-Lodge welcomed the Government's readiness to reconsider the Potsdam agreement and favoured a Central Government for Germany as an eventual goal which would coalesce the powers exercised by regional units. If we developed our own best qualities the chances were that such a Britain would serve as the model on which Germany's future life would be moulded.

INTERNATIONAL WORK IN PROGRESS

Student centres spread in U.S.

THE exchange of students between different countries is one of the best methods of promoting mutual understanding among people, but mutual understanding involves something more than providing travel grants, free tuition, or annual stipends.

The International House idea grew from a chance encounter one autumn morning in 1910. While walking across the grounds of Columbia University in New York City, Harry Edmonds, a student, Young Men's Christian Association secretary, called out a casual "Good morning" to a passing Chinese student. A small, spontaneous gesture, but one that was to have far-reaching consequences, because the Chinese youth stopped Edmonds and said: "Do you know that you are the first person who has greeted me in the three weeks I have been in New York?"

Gradually the idea spread of having a place that foreign students could use as a permanent meeting place and a home as well—an opportunity to live together under one roof sharing common experiences.

In John D. Rockefeller, well-known American financier and philanthropist, the group found the man who was to transform this nebulous idea into a reality. He became interested in the Club and, in 1923 gave it a piece of land in New York City on Riverside Drive overlooking the Hudson River, together with 3,000,000 dollars to build and equip a home. Completed in 1924, this became the first International House with Mr. Edmonds as its first director.

A survey of other possible locations for similar International Houses led Mr. Rockefeller in 1927 to donate 1,750,000 dollars to the University of California at Berkeley and 3,000,000 dollars in 1930 to the University of Chicago to establish student centres. In normal times the ratio of foreign students to Americans, living in the Houses, is about equal.

These centres in the United States help to establish lasting personal contacts between the future citizens of countries all over the world, and foster a spirit of understanding, respect and sympathy which is an essential element in promoting international good will.—U.S. Information Service.

Link-up for work camps

A CONFERENCE of organizations using work-camps as a technique for fostering international reconciliation has just been held in Brussels. Those represented included the Service Civil International (of which the British branch is the International Voluntary Service for Peace), Friends' Ambulance Unit Post-War Service, the American Friends Service Committee and Scandinavian organizations.

As a result of this conference there will be closer co-ordination and exchange of volunteers, thanks to the liaison which is to be assured by the international secretariat of the Service Civil International. It is estimated that these organizations had in all something like 2,000 volunteers working with them during this summer in 15 countries.

Canadian Army C.O. Freed

EX-CORPORAL R. G. BROOKS of the Canadian Army has been released from detention and honourably discharged from the Army, according to information from Canada reaching the Central Board for COs.

Court-martialled in Britain in July, Brooks, who had become a conscientious objector while serving, was found not guilty of desertion but guilty of absence without leave. He was sentenced to detention for one year (reduced to eight months) and was reduced to the ranks.

Strong representations had been made to Canadian Military Headquarters by the CBCO.

'SAVE EUROPE NOW' NEED HELP

"Save Europe Now" would still welcome voluntary help between 4 p.m. and 8.30 p.m., Mondays to Fridays.

Helpers enter at 30 Maiden Lane between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. (after 7, the door has to be closed).

The Atom Bomb: can we "contract-out"?

AT a London meeting last week to consider the scientific and religious aspects of atomic warfare Dr. Alex Wood, who was associated with the initial research into atomic energy, said that scientific methods of destruction had robbed the combatant of any sense of personal responsibility, striking down men, women and children without discrimination.

The control of the production of atomic bombs was possible only if all nations were prepared to forego competition in their production. Our own nation ought to consider contracting out of any scheme in which the atom bomb figured as a weapon of warfare.

Atomic energy would not necessarily facilitate the "good life." Today, in an age of many gadgets, there was a greater sense of frustration and lack of direction among young people than ever before. We must consider what we wanted science to do for us—pursue material advancement for its own sake, a path leading inevitably to competition and the atom bomb, or help us to "seek first the Kingdom of Heaven."

Archdeacon Percy Hartill pointed out that Christianity had never accepted warfare without qualification. Certain conditions had been laid down for its just waging. Scientific inventions had now removed the last shreds of justification in any circumstances, and we ought therefore to urge the Church to make a pronouncement against war.

UNESCO SEEKS PEACE

"IN THE MINDS OF MEN"

"The Governments of the States, parties to this Constitution on behalf of their peoples, declare that since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed."

Those are the opening words of the Constitution of UNESCO—the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation. The General Conference of UNESCO opens in Paris on November 19.

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